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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/773,351	01/31/2001	Daniel H. Maes	00.22US	5974

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EXAMINER

JIANG, SHAOJIA A

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

1617

DATE MAILED: 08/18/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No. 09/773,351	Applicant(s) MAES ET AL.
Examiner Shaojia A. Jiang	Art Unit 1617

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 09 May 2005.
- 2a) This action is FINAL.
- 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1 and 3-20 is/are pending in the application.
 - 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 1 and 3-20 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 - 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) Other: _____

1.7

DETAILED ACTION

A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on May 9, 2005 has been entered.

This Office Action is in response to Applicant's request for continued examination (RCE) filed May 9, 2005, and amendment and response to the Final Office Action (mailed September 10, 2004), filed May 9, 2005 wherein claim 1 has been amended.

Currently, claims 1 and 3-20 are pending in this application.

Claims 1 and 3-20 are examined on the merits herein.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1, 3-4, 6-9, 11 and 18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ribier et al. (5,925,364, of record) in view of Sebag et al.(5,411,742,

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of record) for the same reasons of record in the previous Office Action September 10, 2004.

Ribier et al. discloses a cosmetic or dermatological composition comprising the ionic amphiphilic lipid such as the alkali metal salts of cholesterol sulphate in particular the sodium salt in amount of 2-6% by weight preferably 3-4% by weight (see col.3 lines 43-48 and 54-55, col.4 lines 12-15), salicylic acid (a known exfoliant) (see claim 18 at col.15 line 6), keratolytic agents (known exfoliants) (see col.5 line 36, claim 15 at col.14 line 49), fatty acids broadly (see col.4 line 60, claim 18 at col.15 line 5), and Centella asiatica extract (see col.4 line 64, claim 18 at col.15 line 8). The cosmetic or dermatological composition of Ribier et al. is known to topically apply to skin.

Ribier et al. does not expressly disclose the employment of the particular fatty acid, linoleic acid, and cholesterol in the composition herein. The prior art does also not expressly disclose the amounts of an exfoliant in the composition herein.

Sebag et al. discloses a cosmetic or dermatological composition comprising the salts of cholesterol (see col.2 line 34), salicylic acid or its derivatives (known exfoliants) in amounts of 3-10% by weight (see abstract, col.3 lines 26-36), keratolytic agents (known exfoliants) (see col.6 line 66), the particular fatty acid, linoleic acid (see claim 10 at col.17 line 17), and cholesterol (see claim 8 at col.17 lines 5-6).

It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to employ the particular fatty acid, linoleic acid, and cholesterol in the composition of Ribier and to optimize the effective amounts of an exfoliant in the composition herein to about 10% by weight.

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One having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made would have been motivated to employ the particular fatty acid, linoleic acid, and cholesterol in the composition of Ribier since fatty acids broadly and the particular fatty acid, linoleic acid, are known to be useful in a cosmetic or dermatological for of treating skin based on the prior art. Moreover, cholesterol is well known to be used a cosmetic or dermatological for of treating skin according Sebag. Therefore, one of ordinary skill in the art would have reasonably expected that combining the composition of Ribier and the composition of Sebag known useful for the same purpose, treating skin, in a composition to be administered would improve the therapeutic effect for treating skin.

Since all active composition components herein are known to useful to treat skin, it is considered prima facie obvious to combine them into a single composition to form a third composition useful for the very same purpose. At least additive therapeutic effects would have been reasonably expected. See *In re Kerkhoven*, 205 USPQ 1069 (CCPA 1980).

Additionally, one of ordinary skill in the art would have been motivated to optimize the effective amounts of the alkali metal salts of cholesterol sulphate and an exfoliant in the composition because their amounts are known in the art and the optimization of known amounts of active agents to be administered is considered well within the skill of artisan. It has been held that it is within the skill in the art to select optimal parameters, such as amounts of ingredients, in a composition in order to achieve a beneficial effect. See *In re Boesch*, 205 USPQ 215 (CCPA 1980).

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Thus the claimed invention as a whole is clearly prima facie obvious over the combined teachings of the prior art.

Response to Argument

Applicant's remarks filed May 9, 2005 with respect to this rejection made under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ribier et al. (5,925,364) in view of Sebag et al.(5,411,742) in the previous Office Action September 10, 2004 have been fully considered but are not deemed persuasive as to the nonobviousness of the claimed invention over the prior art as further discussed below.

Applicants assert that "the formation of discrete layers of a lipid vesicle is precisely what occurs when the ionic lipid is mixed in the '364 preparation." and "The '364 preparation does not produce a mixture because the ionic lipids swell under the action of mixing to form discrete layers of a lipid vesicle which separates its contents from the other ingredients in composition, namely the outside media (e.g., the aqueous phase). Applicants also argue that "There is a stark contrast between the act of mixing and the act of producing a mixture" and "In none of the cited references does the act of mixing produce a mixture".

Applicants' assertion and argument are not found convincing. Again, Applicant is requested to note that that the instant claims are **not limited** to "the act of mixing produce a mixture" and in what orderly manner to form discrete layers of a vesicle dispersed in the aqueous phase. The instant claims merely recite a composition comprising a mixture of effective amounts of cholesterol sulfate or salts thereof, integral with or mixed with an exfoliant in a cosmetically or pharmaceutically acceptable vehicle.

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However, the features upon which applicant argue and assert, are not recited in the rejected claim(s). Although the claims are interpreted in light of the specification, limitations from the specification are not read into the claims. See *In re Van Geuns*, 988 F.2d 1181, 26 USPQ2d 1057 (Fed. Cir. 1993). Therefore, it is irrelevant whether the reference includes those features or not.

For the above stated reasons, said claims are properly rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a). Therefore, said rejection is adhered to.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1 and 3-9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Ribier et al. (5,650,166) for the same reasons of record in the previous Office Action September 10, 2004.

Ribier et al. discloses a moisturizing composition for the treatment of surface and deep layers of the skin clear comprising the instant ingredients such as cholesterol sulfate in the salt of alkali metal (including potassium) (see col.3 lines 64-67), N-acetylglucosamine (see col. 5, lines 59-67), the particular sterol, cholesterol (see col.3 line 60 and col. 6, lines 47-49), fatty acids, including linoleic acid (see col. 6, lines 44-46). Ribier' 166 further teaches the use of plant extracts (see col. 7, lines 5-8). The

compositions of Ribier et al. may be emulsion, gel, lotion, and ointment forms (see col.7 lines 10-14).

Thus, the disclosure of Ribier et al. anticipates Claims 1 and 3-9.

Response to Argument

Applicant's remarks filed May 9, 2005 with respect to this rejection made under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Ribier et al. (5,650,166) in the previous Office Action September 10, 2004 have been fully considered but are not deemed persuasive as to the nonobviousness of the claimed invention over the prior art as further discussed below.

Applicants assert that "[t]he arrangement in the '166 Ribier reference is not a "mixture" as one of ordinary skill in the art would understand it. Two ingredients that are separate from one another, as they are in '166 Ribier by virtue of the vesicle formation, cannot be mixture or be integral with one another because they are not actually combined".

Contrary to Applicant's assertion, the cosmetic or dermatological composition of Ribier et al. is a mixture comprising the instant ingredients such as cholesterol sulfate in the salt of alkali metal (including potassium), N-acetylglucosamine, the particular sterol, cholesterol, fatty acids, including linoleic acid. Ribier' 166 further teaches the use of plant extracts.

Moreover, as pointed out before, that the instant claims are **not limited** to what is the way or manner the ingredients of prior art combine or mix" and "the act of mixing produce a mixture" or in what orderly manner to form discrete layers of a vesicle

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dispersed in the aqueous phase. The instant claims merely recite a composition comprising a mixture of effective amounts of cholesterol sulfate or salts thereof, integral with or mixed with an exfoliant in a cosmetically or pharmaceutically acceptable vehicle. However, the features upon which applicant argue and assert, are not recited in the rejected claim(s). Although the claims are interpreted in light of the specification, limitations from the specification are not read into the claims. See *In re Van Geuns*, 988 F.2d 1181, 26 USPQ2d 1057 (Fed. Cir. 1993). Therefore, it is irrelevant whether the reference includes those features or not, so long as the prior art discloses a composition comprising the same ingredients.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 13-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ribier et al. (5,650,166) for the same reasons of record in the previous Office Action September 10, 2004.

The same disclosure of Ribier et al. (5,650,166) has been discussed in the 102(b) rejection set forth above.

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The cited prior art does not expressly disclose that the amount of the each instant ingredient.

It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to employ the amount of the known particular agents taught in Ribier et al.

One having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made would have been motivated to employ the amount of the known particular agents taught in Ribier et al. since the determination or optimization of amounts of known cosmetic agents, is considered well within conventional skills in pharmaceutical science, involving merely routine skill in the art.

It has been held that it is within the skill in the art to select optimal parameters, such as amounts of ingredients, in a composition in order to achieve a beneficial effect. See *In re Boesch*, 205 USPQ 215 (CCPA 1980).

Claims 10-12 and 20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ribier et al. (5,650,166) further in view of Subbiah (6,150,381) and Ichinose et al. (5,702,691) for reasons of record stated in the Office Action dated September 10, 2004.

The claims are directed to compositions further comprising sclareolide and white birch extract.

The same disclosure of Ribier et al. (5,650,166) has been discussed in the 102(b) rejection set forth above.

The cited prior art does not expressly disclose the employment of sclareolide and white birch extract.

It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to add or employ sclareolide and white birch extract in the composition of Ribier et al.

Subbiah teaches the use of sclareolide in topical formulations, padicularly for one (see abstract). Sclareolide is taught in combination with other ingredients (see col. 5, line 6 through col. 7, line 12). Subbiah teaches that sclareolide has antimicrobial activity that is useful in the treatment of acne (see col. 4, lines 45-65).

Ichinose teaches that white birch extracts are known anti-inflammatory agents (see col. 5, lines 4-13).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have modified the compositions of Ribier '166 by the addition of sclareolide for its anti-acne properties as taught by Subbiah and by the addition of white birch extract for its anti-inflammatory properties as taught by Ichinose. The motivation for the modification comes from the benefit of such propedies in formulating cosmetic compositions. The missing ingredients have art-recognized suitability for the intended purpose of formulating cosmetic compositions. The selection of a known material based on its suitability for its intended use has been determined to be prima facie obvious. See *Shclair & Carroll Co. F. Interchemical Corp.*, 325 U.S. 327, 65 USPQ 297 (1945)., *In re Leshin*, 227 F.2d 197, 125 USPQ 416 (CCPA 1960); and MPEP 2144.07.

Response to Argument

Applicant's remarks filed May 9, 2005 with respect to the rejection of Claims 13-20 made under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over Ribier et al. (5,650,166) have been fully considered but are not deemed persuasive as to the nonobviousness of the claimed invention over the prior art as discussed above.

In particular, note that the instant claims are not limited to the particular form of mixture, and moreover, Ribier et al. teaches the compositions therein for topical use in emulsion, gel, lotion, and ointment forms.

Applicant's argument that the cited Ribier et al. (5,650,166) does not teach NADG directly added to a vehicle, is not found convincing. The instant claims are not limited to specific method in a specific method steps for the preparation of the instant composition. Therefore, it is irrelevant whether the reference includes those features or not.

Further, Applicant's one Example shown in the specification at pages 8-10 herein have been fully considered but are not deemed persuasive as to the nonobviousness and/or unexpected results of the claimed invention over the prior art for the reasons below. Example 1 provides no clear and convincing evidence of nonobviousness or unexpected results over the cited prior art since there is no comparison to the same present. Therefore, the evidence presented in specification herein is not seen to be clear and convincing in support the nonobviousness of the instant claimed invention over the prior art.

For the above stated reasons, said claims are properly rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a). Therefore, said rejection is adhered to.

Double Patenting

The nonstatutory double patenting rejection is based on a judicially created doctrine grounded in public policy (a policy reflected in the statute) so as to prevent the unjustified or improper timewise extension of the "right to exclude" granted by a patent and to prevent possible harassment by multiple assignees. See *In re Goodman*, 11 F.3d 1046, 29 USPQ2d 2010 (Fed. Cir. 1993); *In re Longi*, 759 F.2d 887, 225 USPQ 645 (Fed. Cir. 1985); *In re Van Ornum*, 686 F.2d 937, 214 USPQ 761 (CCPA 1982); *In re Vogel*, 422 F.2d 438, 164 USPQ 619 (CCPA 1970); and, *In re Thorington*, 418 F.2d 528, 163 USPQ 644 (CCPA 1969).

A timely filed terminal disclaimer in compliance with 37 CFR 1.321(c) may be used to overcome an actual or provisional rejection based on a nonstatutory double patenting ground provided the conflicting application or patent is shown to be commonly owned with this application. See 37 CFR 1.130(b).

Effective January 1, 1994, a registered attorney or agent of record may sign a terminal disclaimer. A terminal disclaimer signed by the assignee must fully comply with 37 CFR 3.73(b).

Claims 1 and 3-20 are provisionally rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1-21 of copending Application No. 10/424,616 for reasons of record stated in the Office Action dated September 10, 2004.

Although the conflicting claims are not identical, they are not patentably distinct from each other because both the copending application and the instant application are drawn to a skin/cosmetic composition containing cholesterol sulfate, fatty acids, and a sterol (such as cholesterol) and methods employing the compositions.

Thus, the copending Application No. 10/424,616 and the instant claims are seen to substantially overlap.

Thus, the instant claims are seen to be obvious over the all claims of copending Application No. 10/424,616.

This is a provisional obviousness-type double patenting rejection because the conflicting claims have not in fact been patented.

Note that Applicants did not argue this provisional obviousness-type double patenting rejection in the remarks filed May 9, 2005.

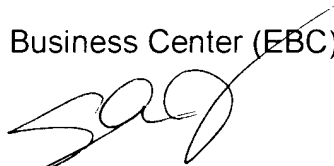
In view of the rejections to the pending claims set forth above, no claims are allowed.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Examiner Jiang, whose telephone number is (571)272-0627. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday from 9:00 to 5:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Sreenivasan Padmanabhan, Ph.D., can be reached on (571)272-0629. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



S. Anna Jiang, Ph.D.
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 1617
August 11, 2005